GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2605
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2016
National Commission for Cultural and Heritage Sites
Puttaraju Shri C.S.

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a National Commission for cultural and heritage sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of this National Commission; and

(d) the time by which the said National Commission is likely to be set up?

Answer

MINISTER OF CULTURE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (d) No Madam. The Government does not intend to constitute a National Commission for cultural and heritage sites. The Government had introduced a Bill named "The National Commission For Heritage Sites Bill, 2009" in the Rajya Sabha on 26.02.2009, which was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture. The same was pending since then for making necessary amendments in the Bill in pursuance to the recommendations, made in the 150th Report of Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, on the Bill. Accordingly, consultations were held with various stakeholders including the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), National Monuments Authority (NMA) as well as Ministries of Urban Development, Environment, Forest & Climate Change (the then Environment & Forests) etc. Based on the consultations, the Government decided not to constitute a National Heritage Sites Commission as envisaged in the said Bill. The Bill was accordingly withdrawn by the Government from the Rajya Sabha on 31.07.2015.